

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W  
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R 220646Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4100

INFO /AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 5161

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6630

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: US-AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CIVIL AVIATION  
CONSULTATIONS

REF: A. STATE 212218(NOTAL), B. WELLINGTON 4385

1. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF US  
CONCLUSION THAT AUGUST 23 AVIATION TALKS MUST BE POSTPONED  
BECAUSE OF CONTINENTAL NOTIFICATION OF OPERATING PROBLEMS  
THAT WILL MAKE START-UP PERIOD LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INDICATION OF PROBABLE  
TIMEFRAME FOR TALKS THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO AUSTRALIANS, EVEN  
IF PRECISE DATE CAN NOT BE PROPOSED AT THIS TIME. AIR  
TRANSPORT POLICY DIVISION IS SMALLEST DIVISION IN DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORT, AND IT IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME FEW PEOPLE WHO  
MUST HANDLE ALL OF AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL AIR NEGOTIATIONS.  
THERE ARE SOMETHING LIKE 16 DIFFERENT AGREEMENTS WITH  
COUNTRIES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND ENGLAND, SO THAT DIVISION  
HAS A FULL PLATE IN COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS AS IT TRY'S TO  
CONCLUDE NEW UK-AUSTRALIAN FARE ARRANGEMENTS. WHATEVER  
INFORMATION WE CAN CONVEY TO THEM REGARDING OUR PLANS  
WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HELPFUL.

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3. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING AVIATION TALKS, EMBOFF ENQUIRED  
OF FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN ROWLAND CONCERNING  
NIXON-MCLACHLAN TALKS DISCUSSED REFTEL B. ROWLAND REPLIED  
AT CONSIDERABLE LENGHT. HOWEVER, INFORMATION MUST BE  
PROTECTED. ROWLAND STATED THAT THEY ARE AFRAID TO TALK WITH  
US THESE DAYS (BECAUSE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION) AND THAT  
IF INFORMATION HE HAD PROVIDED WERE TO APPEAR IN PRESS, IT

LITERALLY WOULD COST HIM HIS JOB.

4. NEW ZEALAND TALKS COVERED A RANGE OF ISSUES, MANY OF WHICH, SAID ROWLAND, DO NOT IMPINGE ON AIR ROUTES WHICH AFFECT THE US TRANS-TASMAN OCEAN SHIPPING WAS A MAJOR TOPIC, AS WAS THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC AIR POLICY STUDY THAT QANTAS GIVE FIRST CHOICE TO TAA AND ANSETT WHEN SEEKING ANOTHER CARRIER TO OPERATE A ROUTE FOR WHICH IT HAS RIGHTS. THIS IS OF CONCERN TO NEW ZEALAND BECAUSE QANTAS USES AN AIR NEW ZEALAND DC-8, FOR WHICH THE LEASE ARRANGEMENT WILL BE EXPIRING.

5. CONTINENTAL WAS DISCUSSED, WITH NEW ZEALAND ADVISING OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE CONTINENTAL APPLICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, AS REPORTED REFTEL B. ROWLAND PROVIDED NO HINT AS TO WHAT ELSE, IF ANYTHING, MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED OR DECIDED WITH RESPECT TO CONTINENTAL.

6. MINISTER NIXON REVIEWED FOR NEW ZEALANDERS THE REASONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY REVIEW; SOME OF PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON IT, "IN GENERAL TERMS," ROWLAND HASTENED TO ADD; THE FACT THAT HE IS GOING BACK TO CABINET ON IT; AND THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH RESPECT TO UK ROUTE AND THIRD COUNTRIES.

7. ROWLAND STATED THAT THERE WERE ALSO SOME BILATERAL  
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PROBLEMS, NOT SIGNIFICANT IN ANY WAY, BUT WHICH HAD BEEN DEFERRED BECAUSE OF THE POLICY STUDY AND WHICH NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED.

8. ALTHOUGH A PRESS RELEASE WAS PUT OUT BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TALKS ATTRACTED LITTLE AUSTRALIAN PRESS ATTENTION. EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT UNEXPECTEDNESS OF MCLACHLAN'S QUICK TRIP IS ATTRIBUTABLE IN LARGE PART TO TIME PRESSURES DISCUSSED PARA 2 ABOVE. THOUGH DESIRE TO MEET PRIOR TO AUSTRALIA-US TALKS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A FACTOR, WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH EMBASSY WELLINGTON THAT CONTINENTAL APPLICATION WAS NOT THE MAIN REASON FOR THE TRIP.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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